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argument is advanced that the cost should be borne by the workingman, and his wages raised if necessary to bring them to the proper living scale. Finally, turning to old-age pensions, the author concludes that they should be adopted, that they should be contributory and compulsory, and that their cost should be borne by the industry which employs the labor.

The book is intended for the public rather than the economist and does not pretend to be either a thorough or a scientific treatment of the subject. But it can well be recommended to the general reader who desires a clear, sympathetic, and sane statement of the reasons in favor of workingmen's insurance—a subject about which a greater knowledge on the part of the public is much to be desired.

A Modern City. Providence, Rhode Island, and Its Activities. Edited by WILLIAM KIRK. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1909. 8vo, pp. ix+363. \$2.50.

The aim of this book, to quote the editor is: "to present the physical characteristics, the racial elements, the commercial and industrial growth, the labor conditions, and the governmental, financial, educational, aesthetic, philanthropic, and religious activities of a typical American city. . . . It seeks to describe what a modern city does, and how it does it . . . and to survey its distinctive characteristics." Consequently it is made up of chapters on this series of heads by different writers. Naturally they vary considerably in value: those on "Population," "Labor," and "Finance," to mention such as are of interest to the economist, are good, while that on "Industry" is lamentably weak—mostly eighteenth-century history. There is, in fact, throughout the book, a rather uncertain wavering between historical fact and present-day conditions which not only is disconcerting in this description of a "modern city" but also results in some unfortunate gaps. Whether, as the editor suggests, a series of this character on different cities would make possible important generalizations for the solution of city problems must be open to doubt. In most cases it seems probable that a more intensive study upon specific problems would prove to be necessary.

Socialism and Its Perils. By SIR WILLIAM EARNSHAW COOPER. London: Eveleigh Nash, 1908. 8vo, pp. xi+338. 2s. 6d.

The author appears to have read fairly widely in a rather miscellaneous assortment of writings by British socialists. He has here gathered together a large collection of extracts from these writings, and he devotes his time to pointing out their contradictions, expressing his horror at the audacity of the proposals, and explaining the impossibility of ever carrying them to a successful conclusion. It can hardly be considered a fair presentation of the socialists' aims and ideals; nor does it show a knowledge of the present-day tendencies in their ranks. Still, the author does present a good many matter-of-fact statements, pertinent calculations, and forceful arguments tending to show the practical difficulties in the way of the socialists' programme. His attitude, however, is not judicial, and his use of statistics is careless and uncritical.